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BROWNBACK PLEASED PRESIDENT PROVIDES DISASTER ASSISTANCE IN WAKE OF TORNADOES

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback said today he is pleased President Clinton has declared a major disaster for Crawford, Labette and Neosho Counties in Kansas, triggering the release of federal funds to help people recover from severe storms and tornadoes that hit April 19.

“I am pleased President Clinton took this action today, which will begin to provide important relief to Kansans who are suffering from the tornadoes and storms of April 19,” Brownback said.

“What I witnessed last weekend while viewing the damage in Parsons is a tragedy; and I am so thankful that no lives were lost.

“Now some Kansans must begin the challenging process of rebuilding. I’m pleased there was no delay in getting these counties declared disaster areas and obtaining the federal funds set aside to help deal with the tragedy,” Brownback said.

Yesterday, Brownback called FEMA Director James Lee Witt and urged him to provide a major disaster declaration for Individual and Hazard Mitigation Assistance for the state of Kansas and the counties of Crawford, Labette, and Neosho. He had also sent a letter to Witt with the same request. The counties endured severe damage as a result of severe thunderstorms – including tornadoes – damaging wind, heavy rains, and hail on April 19.